

~~SECRET~~

Subject: A Trip to the Soviet Union in May 1966

Source : George HAWRYLYSHYN

Date : 17 Jun 1966

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Source is Canadian citizen of Ukrainian descent, aged 26, single, catholic, born in Lvov, West Ukraine; grown up and educated in Canada, graduate of Ryerson Politechnical Institute of Toronto, Ont. (major in journalistics), at the present Night Editor of the Associated Press in Madrid, Carrera de San Jeronimo, 16, Spain. Speaks fluent Ukrainian and Spanish, fair Russian, poor French and Polish. Beside his job as Night Editor Subject studies political science at the Madrid University. He is a bright young man, intelligent, alert, industrious. Quite well read in international politics but much less familiar with Soviet internal situation. In a few months he is going to be transferred to the Associated Press in New York, N.Y.

2. In May 1966 Source made his trip to Poland and the Soviet Union as a tourist without disclosing his association with the AP. From Warsaw to Moscow he went by train via Brest Litovsk. He crossed the frontier at Brest Litovsk on 14 May 1966, in the early afternoon and arrived in Moscow in the evening. In Brest Litovsk Source had to change train or rather leave wagon for documents and customs control. The Soviet customs control was quite strict. They looked into his suitcase and told him to show how much money he was bringing with him. They did not look, however, into his vallet. Also he was not asked whether he had any letters or messages to be conveyed or posted in the Soviet Union. Together with the Source in the same coupe were two Soviet junior officers and a sargent. The latter was somewhat under influence of liquor and all

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

the time bothered Source with his requests for singing him "jazz". He himself played accordion and knew a lot of and about American jazz. He also wanted to know why Source was going to the Soviet Union, whether he was one of "those bad tourists" that only come to "sniff" what was going on around. Finally one of the officers called the sargent out of the coupe and after they returned he no longer bothered Source. All three military men were subjected to an even stricter customs control than the Source. In addition, after one or the other started complaining about the manner they were treated the Soviet customs officers simply turned their baggage up-side-down and threw it around. The same was done with other ^{Soviet} travellers who were going to Moscow.

Muse

On the way back Source passed through Uzhgorod where he was subjected to another customs control. His baggage was looked through but after they found Soviet local newspapers they seemed to be less strict than before. They also looked through his books, all Soviet, some with dedications, and let them all pass. Among the newspapers Source had "Vechirniy Kiev" and "Vilna Ukraina". All papers were handed by one customs officer to ~~another~~ one who was behind a wall and who evidently checked them. Without a word only one copy of "Pravda" of Moscow was returned afterwards to Source, all the other ^{ones} ~~local~~ and "Pravda Ukrainy" and "Radians Ukraina" were confiscated. The customs officers went also through small gifts that were wrapped into newspapers and ~~then~~ re-wrapped them into plain paper. Among them also a Hutsul necklace that was wrapped in "Vilna Ukraina".

Muse

Source was also asked whether he had any papers or anything else on him but after his negative answer was not subjected to a body search.

SECRET

Nevertheless Source managed to bring out two copies of "Vechirnyi Kiev" he had put together with shirts into a different compartment of his suitcase. These copies he left in Munich with a friend of his cousin from Geneva. Source passed Ushgorod on 24 May 1966.

3. Source stayed in Moscow for 2 nights at the hotel "Berlin". From Moscow to Kiev he went by plane. In Kiev he stayed for 4 days at hotel "Dnipro". From Kiev to Lvov he went by plane again and stayed in Lvov for 5 nights. One day he spent in Uzhgorod. From Lvov to Uzhgorod he went by train via Sambor. From Uzhgorod via Budapest Source went to Vienna, then Munich and Geneva. After a few days in Geneva ~~Source~~ Source arrived in Madrid on 1 June 1966. There he was interviewed next day at his office.

Source travelled on a "reduced rate" recently introduced for individual tourists at \$ 13.- per day. This covered also a car for 3 hours every second day. It was, however, Source's impression that the Inturist people were quite happy when a tourist resigned from this privilege. Source was also of the opinion that he was not being surveilled or rather at least he did not observe anything to this effect.

4. In Moscow Source visited Associated Press' premisses at 13 Ulitsa Narodnaya where he met Henry S. BRADSHER, chief of AP Bureau. The latter, aged approx. 40, American of Irish descent, told Source about his forthcoming trip to Kiev where he wanted to see a demonstration that used to take place in recent years on the anniversary of the transfer of Shevchenko's body from Petrograd to Kiev. According to BRADSHER there seemed to be quite a strong Ukrainian patriotic movement in that

part of the country and on the whole the developments in the Ukraine ~~XXXXXXXX~~ were worthwhile of watching. Bradsher decided to go to Kiev on his own initiative to find out on the spot what was what and to check out on various rumors circulating in Moscow. According to Source, Bradsher was quite well informed on Ukrainian affairs.

5. In a restaurant in Moscow, still on the same day as he arrived, Source met a Fedia, but rather his last name is in a book authored by Fedia and which was left by Source in Geneva. As soon as he gets the book he will send the last name of Fedia.

Fedia-Russian, aged 35-38, party member, on editorial staff of an atheist publishing house in Moscow, married - invited Source to his house. However Source could not remember his address and next day Fedia told him to send all mail to his Publishing House named in the book.

With Fedia Source talked mostly about religious problems. Fedia was seriously interested in various aspects of religious life in the West and also in some dogmatic problems. He did not attack Source for his belief in God but ~~xxxxxx~~ on the contrary showed much understanding and tolerance. Still he used to say that it was inconceivable for him how an educated young man could believe in God.

Fedia admitted that there was some religious revival of religious feelings in the Soviet Union, also among youth, but he ascribed them to the active remnants of the past mentality, wartime experiences, and improper atheistic propaganda. In this respect he said he had to criticize himself as well, because quite often he did not stress strongly enough ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the necessity to substitute crude atheistic propaganda with elaborated scientific argumentation.

However, at the present much is being changed in this field and Fedia was sure that religion won't be able to stand up against science.

When talking about persecution of monks and priests at Pochajiv in recent years Fedia did not approve of them explaining that he was for scientific persuasion and not administrative coercion.

Fedia assured Source that the removal of Khrushchev was absolutely in the interest of the Soviet peoples because the new leadership had better qualifications for ruling such a huge country as the USSR. Now all is being set more on rational, scientific basis, and in ~~the~~ true collective spirit. He rejected the idea of an eventual return of Stalinism but added that "not everything what Stalin had done was wrong, on the contrary there was much to be appreciated".

Fedia told Source that he actually was of Ukrainian descent and tried to speak Ukrainian but it was very difficult for him. Allegedly he had studied in Kiev and ^{had} a few friends there at the present. He gave Source the address of one of his friends : BYCHKO Ada Korniyevich and asked to convey his greetings to her.

Fedia introduced Source to his wife , also an atheist, party member, Russian, and secretary or typist with "Pravda" in Moscow.

Source was treated at Fedia's house with drinks and zakuska. He saw only two rooms which were quite comfortably furnished and tastily decorated.

6. At the "Sovremennik" Source met in Moscow ROMANOV Sergei Konstantinovich, Russian, aged 25, Komsomol member, automobile-engineer. ROMANOV works in an automobile institute in Moscow

SECRET

-6-

where they "study" foreign cars. Jokingly ROMANOV explained that "as you see, we never imitate anything, all Soviet cars are original, but we do learn all we can about foreign makes". Indeed, ROMANOV seemed to know quite a lot about American and English cars.

ROMANOV stated his address as Moscow 240, Chkalova ul. 52/8, Tel. K 7-58-17. He is single, has a remarkable sense for a Soviet sense of humor, vivacious, quite intelligent, little interested in politics but much ~~with~~ ⁱⁿ cars, good food, wine, and probably women. In summer 1966 he goes to London with a tourist group and asked whether Source could give him someone there that "would introduce him to London". Source had no address in London but promise to eventually send him one from Canada.

At the Sovremennik Theatre where Source met Romanov the latter was sitting next to Source and the Source was the first to start conversation. After performance they went to a restaurant and did most of the talking there.

7. While in Moscow Source met also two or three students and engaged ^{them} in a small talk, ~~but~~ without having been able to induce them to say something interesting.

8. In Kiev Source visited BYCHKO Ada Korniyevich at Bulvar Lepse 79 a, kv.25. Ada is married to BYCHKO and her husband turned out to be more interesting than Fedia's friend. BYCHKO, fnu is Ukrainian, aged 38-40, Candidate & lecturer in philosophy at Kiev University, author of many books on atheism, "and other philosophical problems".

SECRET

BYCHKOS occupy an apartment consisting of two rooms and a kitchen . With them lives his mother, his father died in WW II. They have two children. The apartment is nicely decorated with much of Ukrainian embroidery . All spoke Ukrainian, no one Russian . Source was surprised by hearing children speak very fine Ukrainian. On the whole the atmosphere was distinctly Ukrainian.

Bychko (the husband) wrote his dissertatsiya on American philosophy. He spoke fair English. Was deeply interested in Western philosophy, religious movements, new trends in individual churches, also in Ukrainian church-life. On this occasion asked ~~ask~~ many question about Ukrainian activities abroad. Did not criticise anything or anybody ,on the contrary , seemed to be positively impressed by what Ukrainians were doing abroad. Party member. He earns Rubel 280.- p.m. His wife - a lecturer on atheism and English (her English was very bad) earns Rubel 200.00. They seemed to be quite well off.

In describing present situation in Ukraine BYCHKO did not go beyond general phrases about life becoming better , great achievements in education, cultural life, and economy; denied a planned Russification, assured Source on bright future of Ukrainians in union with Russians and other peoples of the USSR.

BYCHKO has a huge library containing also many works by foreign authors mainly on philosophy.

9. In Lvov Source met FILVARKIV Bohdan of wul. Matrosova 20/13 (Lvov 12). F. was a teacher of desiatylitka in Lvov, Ukrainian, aged 28, quite frightened. He helped Source to look around in the city but was very reluctant to discuss any political topics and his answers limited to equivocal hints and non-commiting generalities. Source met him in the Zankovetska Theatre in Lvov during a performance.

10. In Lvov Source met his relatives (uncles and aunts) and also a cousin from ~~near~~ BUCHACH, West Ukraine.

11. In Kiev Source spent most of his time with a relative of his , a young engineer from West Ukraine employed at Radio and Electronics plant in Kiev. His father was a UPA man who had died in Siberia, on deportation. Source did not want to divulge his name or any other data. The engineer was the one who together with the cousin from BUCHACH and some relatives in Lvov had told him most about the situation in the Ukraine. Still Source was very unhappy about "the way they talk in the Ukraine". They never give a precise answer, they take too much for granted, and prefer to be equivocal, vague, and "mysterious". Source made hundreds of interviews in his life but he could never learn his living by interviewing Soviet individuals. He gave some examples:

In Kiev his relative (the engineer) took him to the cemetery and showed ~~the~~ Hrushevskyi's grave. Source asked whether there were any chances that Hrushevskyi's History of Ukraine would be published in the Soviet Union. The engineer's reply was : "What, are you crazy ?" Source did not give up and tried to explain what he was after. The answer was : " Did you fall down from Mars yesterday?".

Another example: Source wanted to know what happened to students arrested a few years ago during a demonstration near Lvov University. The reply was : " They were liquidated". "What do you mean they were liquidated" - Source asked. His relative gave ^{him} a strange look and said: "They were given honey cakes and sent to Crimea resort..."

1. According to what Source was told by his relatives in Lvov and Kiev there were arrests in all bigger cities of the Ukraine last fall mostly among young intellectuals and students. No names beside SVITLYCHNY were mentioned. These were so far the most numerous arrests since Stalin's death. Some individual arrests were heppening all the time but were usually kept well secret. The last ones were quite public and generally talked of. Source was unable to find out what was the actual reason for those arrests except for general statements that they were arrested for their patriotism and /or opposition to Russian oppression. The usual answer he received was " don't ask silly questions you know pretty well what Russians do arrest our people for".

According to one relative of Lvov "a few years ago" there was a student demonstration near Ivan Franko University. Ukrainian students were gathering to protest against Russian lecturing and Russian lecturers at the University. Militia and plainclothesmen surrounded at once the students ^{meeting} ~~even~~ before it could develop into a real manifestation. Some students were arrested and the rest dispersed. Those arrested were "liquidated". Source asked another relative about the event. The other one told him that indeed there was such a case and according to hear-say militia did even use arms.

The same relative told the Source that in recent years there increased the number of "quiet interrogations" by the KGB, i.e. the KGB uses to summon various people for interrogations "about everything and nothing" which last for a few hours. In the beginning people paid some attention to that practice but now got used to it.

2. Source was told that living standard in the city and countryside remarkably improved after Khrushchev's removal. In last days of Khrushchev life was very miserable indeed, and practically within a week after Brezhnev's and Kosygin's takeover there appeared even meat, butter and flour. Source's own observation was that people were quite well dressed and had enough to eat.

Another observation he made was that it was much easier to make contact with young people in Moscow than in Kiev or Lvov.

According to what he was told in Kiev and Lvov people did not expect any dramatic changes ^{after} the 23rd Congress. As one of his relatives put it "there was nothing earthshaking for many years and we don't think there will be soon". Source's opinion was that here in the West people overestimate both: former liberalization and contemporary reversal. In reality, common people in the Soviet Union take a rather pessimistic view of both and though obviously there were vacillations to better or worse, in the long run, the system is still ~~strong~~ enough to command cautiousness and apprehension.

Pilot
People thought that the present dumvirat will not last for very long and sooner or later BREZHNEV will eat up Kosygin. Why not vice-versa? Because KOSYGIN is considered a better man than BREZHNEV, so by the logic of Soviet reality, BREZHNEV will win.

Mass
3. People listen to foreign broadcasts, mainly to BBC, Radio Liberty, Radio Vatican, VOA and Free Europe. Most popular are the BBC, Free Europe, and Radio Liberty. The VOA was badly criticized as "useless for Soviet conditions". Some people listened regularly to the Vatican Radio (Ukrainian) to hear Mass.

On the whole people in Ukraine, particularly in West Ukraine, seemed to be well informed of what was going on in the world. As to Vietnam, some wondered why the US was playing around for such a long time ^{with Vietcong} ~~in Vietnam~~, in their opinion it could have finished communists long time ago.

People in Ukraine are also quite happy about Soviet-Chinese conflict. The engineer of Kiev expressed the opinion that definitely in the long run the Ukraine will benefit from it. How? Russians will have to give more concessions to Ukrainians in order to have "a safe backyard".

Source discovered that all people he talked to, were against war. Even his cousin from BUCHACH was against. What they hoped for? Some internal crises and pressure from outside.

Main reason why people are against war is a definite improvement of living standard when looked ^{at} from a post-Stalin perspective. Despite all the zig-zags , in summary, the life is getting better and has fewer strictures than before.

As to Ukrainian potential - again looking at ^{it} from post-Stalin perspective - it is definitely increasing. The main factor - youth - was getting more patriotic than could have been expected. Recent arrests did not break people's spirit. On the contrary it rather "excited" young people and gave them "a new sense of importance".